

What is claimed is:

1. An access restriction method for a device control system comprising a device control server interconnected over a wired or wireless home network with one or more devices within a home,
5 and an operating terminal capable of wired or wireless transmission of instruction signals relating to operation of said one or more devices, said method including the steps of:

accepting registration of terminal information for
associating a unique identifier established for said operating
10 terminal with said operating terminal access right;

accepting instruction information including said
operating terminal identifier and said instruction signals
relating to operation of said one or more devices;

determining said operating terminal access right based on
15 said operating terminal identifier included in said instruction
information; and

controlling said one or more devices based on said
operating terminal access right and said signal instructions
relating to said one or more devices.

20 2. An access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

receiving a public key set for said operating terminal when
accepting registration of said operating terminal;

receiving predetermined data that has been encrypted with
25 a secret key at said operating terminal; and

performing authentication of said operating terminal by decrypting said data using said public key, and comparing the decrypted data with said predetermined data.

3. An access restriction method for a device control system
5 according to claim 2, wherein said public key is associated with said operating terminal identifier as part of said terminal information and registered as such.

4. An access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1, further including the steps of:

10 acquiring and storing within storage means electronic information; and

when said instruction signals relating to said one or more devices include access to electronic information stored in said storage means, determining whether to allow said electronic information to be presented is made based on said operating 15 terminal access right.

5. An access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1, wherein, when said instruction signals relating to operation of said one or more devices include access 20 to an external network, control of said one or more devices is performed after determination of whether to allow said access to an external network is made based on said operating terminal access right.

6. An access restriction method for a device control system
25 according to claim 5, wherein determination of whether to grant

access is made for each content on said external network.

7. An access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1, wherein, when instruction signals from said operating terminal have been received, determination is
5 made of whether said operating terminal is located inside or outside the house, and determination of operating terminal access right is made based on the results of said determination and on said operating terminal identifier included in said instruction information.

10 8. An access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1, further including a step for accepting registration of individual information for associating information relating to a user operating said operating terminal with said operating terminal, wherein:

15 individual information associated with this operating terminal is extracted based on said operating terminal identifier included in said instruction information, and determination of access right is made based on said individual information and said terminal information.

20 9. A program for executing on a computer an access restriction method for a device control system according to claim 1.

10. A computer-readable recording medium on which is recorded the program according to claim 9.

25 11. A device control server interconnected over a wired or

wireless home network with one or more devices in a home, said server controlling said one or more devices based on instruction information relating to the operation of said one or more devices sent from an operating terminal, said server comprising:

5 terminal information acceptance means for accepting registration of an operating terminal for the purpose of associating a unique identifier set for said operating terminal with said operating terminal access right;

10 terminal information storage means for storing said terminal information;

instruction information acceptance means for accepting instruction information that includes an identifier for said operating terminal and instruction signals relating to said operating terminal;

15 access right determination means for determining the access right of said operating terminal based on said instruction information; and

device control means controlling said one or more devices based on the access right of said operating terminal as determined by said access right determination means and on instruction signals relating to operation of said one or more devices included in said instruction information.

12. A device control server according to claim 11, further comprising:

25 public key acceptance means for, when accepting

registration of said terminal information, accepting a public key set for said operating terminal and storing said public key along with said terminal information in said terminal information storage means; and

5 operating terminal authentication means for performing authentication on said operating terminal by sending predetermined data, receiving said predetermined data after encryption thereof at said operating terminal using a secret key, decrypting using said public key, and comparing with said 10 predetermined data.

13. A device control server according to claim 11, further comprising:

electronic information acquisition means for acquiring electronic information and

15 electronic information storage means for storing electronic information acquired by said electronic information acquisition means, wherein:

when said instruction signals relating to operation of said one or more devices include access to electronic information 20 stored in said electronic information storage means, said access right determination means determines the access right of said operating terminal before determining whether or not to allow presentation of said electronic information.

14. A device control server according to claim 11, further 25 comprising external communication means capable of connecting

with an external network existing outside the house, wherein:
when said instruction signals relating to operation of said
one or more devices include access to said external network, said
access right determination means determines the access right of
said operating terminal before determining whether to grant
access to said external network.

15. A device control server according to claim 14, wherein determination of whether to grant access is made for each content on said external network.

10 16. A device control server according to claim 11, further
comprising terminal location determination means for
determining whether said operating terminal is inside or outside
the house based on instruction information accepted by said
instruction acceptance means, wherein said access right
15 determination means determines access right for said operating
terminal based on determination results of said terminal
location determination means.

17. A device control server according to claim 11, further comprising individual information acceptance means accepting
20 registration of individual information for associating information relating to a user operating said operating terminal with said operating terminal, wherein said access right determination means extracts individual information associated with this operating terminal based on said operating terminal
25 identifier included in said instruction information, and

determines access right based on said individual information and
said terminal information.

18. An operating terminal that in a device control system
having a device control server interconnected over a wired or
5 wireless home network with one or more devices within a home,
sends instruction signals relating to operations of said one or
more devices comprising:

identifier storage means storing a unique identifier;

terminal information registration means for registering

10 said identifier on said device control server;

input acceptance means for accepting input of instructions
relating to operation of said one or more devices;

instruction information generation means for generating
instruction information based on inputted instructions accepted
by said input acceptance means and on an identifier stored in
15 said identifier storage means; and

instruction information transmission means for wired or
wireless transmission of instruction information generated by
said instruction information generation means.

20 19. An operating terminal according to claim 18, further
comprising location information acquisition means for acquiring
current location information, wherein:

said instruction information generation means generates
instruction information based on said inputted instructions,

25 said identifier, and location information acquired by said

location information acquisition means.

20. An operating terminal according to claim 18, further comprising:

individual information input means for accepting the input
5 of information relating to an operating user, wherein:

said instruction information generation means generates
instruction information based on said inputted instructions,
said identifier, and information relating to said user accepted
by said individual information input means.

10 21. An operating terminal according to claim 18, further
comprising:

secret key storage means for storing a secret key;

public key storage means for storing a public key
corresponding to said secret key; and

15 encryption means for encrypting data using said secret key;
wherein:

said operating terminal sends said public key to said
device control server during registration of terminal
information at said device control server by said terminal
20 information registration means, and, during transmission of
said instruction information, encrypts predetermined data
received from said device control server using said secret key
and sends this as authentication information.